

What was Done at Last Saturday's Special Town Meeting.

A SEVERAL RESOLUTIONS OFFERED—THE DIS-
CUSSION—A FINAL UNANIMOUS VOTE TO BUILD
MONUMENT WHICH SHALL BE A CREDIT TO
THE TOWN AND A FITTING TRIBUTE TO ITS

There was a good sized attendance at the special town meeting held last Saturday afternoon, with all parts of the town well represented. The article of the warrant on which the town was called together to take action was the following:

To wit: That if the town will vote to instruct its selectmen to see if they can get a law passed, and to see if they can get a soldiers' monument erected, and to take such further action thereon as may be deemed advisable.

After the meeting had been called to order by the warrant read, Col. Haskins took the floor and briefly stated why the meeting had been called. The vote passed at the annual town meeting for the erection of a soldiers' monument was clearly illegal, because the

Towne may, at town meetings, the warnings for which contain an article for that purpose, *cautioned* *selectmen* to erect monuments to the memory of sons of such town who died in the service of the

[illegible]

Col. Hooker followed, and in opening expressed his regret that it had been necessary to draw the vote together again for the first; but the fault, he said, was his own, and he had drawn and introduced the resolution which was adopted at the annual meet-

Col. Haker then proceeded to explain the action of the committee of the Grand Army, which had adopted the Hines design, and were proceeding to make contracts for its erection when the secretmen informed them that they should not feel justified in drawing orders for the money under the vote as it then stood. He said that the sum originally asked for building the monument was \$5200, but that the price was finally reduced to \$5000. Col. Lyon had agreed to quarry the foundation stone in the base of the monument all in one block, which was the only way to assure solidity and permanence. As regards the bronze work, there was a vast difference in

quality of bronze. That which Mr. Moore said was the reason why the bronze statues which had stood for centuries without corrosion. On these and other points, Mr. Hooker vindicated the action of the committee. The statue which the Grand Army of the Republic had ordered to be erected, he said, had been raised distinctly for monument purposes, and it would be used for nothing else. It was the privilege of the veterans to have a monument, and he believed the Hines design to represent what the people of Brattleboro wanted to put into monument. As an amendment, therefore, Mr. Hooker moved that the committee be authorized to offer the statue for sale, and if he offered the statue for sale, that the selectmen be hereby directed to purchase the same for \$100 out of any funds belonging to the town. Mr. Hooker then moved, in connection with the construction and erecting of a soldier's monument, that the committee be authorized to aid monument working to plans and designs of George A. Hines, and of material and make as a monument for the Grand Army of the Republic of Vermont.

Dr. J. M. Snyder said that every good citizen would appreciate the raising of any monument to a great man, which was also a privilege, like that of erecting a monument to the Grange soldiers; but certain facts must be borne in mind. The law must be complied with, and the law says the selectmen shall select the monument; no one else can do it legally. I will of the first importance to select suitable design, and such a design cannot be made without the aid of a designer, which must be of necessity a paid designer. The committee. A careful study of the subject must be made; other monuments may be selected and designs studied; we must be sure that we are getting the best thing for our money, and the work must be done economically.

Col. Haskins, who was obliged to leave the city to meet an imperative personal engagement, had a key to the safe in which he stored his cash. He was not particularly interested, as the subject of price had been discussed, he had figures in his pocket from re-

the state in offering to build a monument on the site, and design for \$500, and to dedicate the monument to the state for \$1000. He knew that the matter was open for public competition had only begun, and once let it go he would have no chance. He had had honorable competition, and monuments from Maine to the Rocky Mountains could be here to offer designs and compete for the work. The whole thing must be put into the hands of the legal guardians of the state.

W. H. Alexander asked if Col. Howland would let the town down to the citizens' judgment. On being answered in the affirmative, he said he should oppose it because, for all that, he did not believe the surface stone being taken from the Dummerston quarry was suitable for monumental purposes, or as

ness, B. D. Haskins reported G. Haskins' motion. The matter was taken up in which great care and deliberation should be given. It was the sentiment, when completed, should be an expression to this coming generation of the taste and culture of our citizens.

Mr. Jacob E. Key took the floor, and said that he did not see but the whole thing was settled. The Grand Jury Committee had gone on and said verbal contract had been made in design; these contracts ought to be held invalid, and we were honor bound to vote for the Hines design, and as a substitute for the Hooker resolution he moved that the following:

Resolved, that the selection be and are hereby disapproved. That appropriate four thousand dollars out of any funds in the treasury be used for the purpose of borrowing the same, for the construction of the new building.

The clerk found difficulty in reading the resolution and Col. Hooker came to his rescue, saying that though he did not write it he knew what it was. This amendment (substitute) was satisfactory to him and he accepted it as his own. It meant that if the vote chosen by the selectmen was satisfactory to the Grand Army, then we would have no amendment; if it was not satisfactory to them, then no amendment.

Mr. Tyler said there seemed to be some confusion about this last amendment, and as Mr. Eaton did not offer it as his own, and as Col. Hooker denied writing it, he inferred

Mr. Estey ever dictated such an unbusinesslike proposition, which tied the selection up to that one design, or to the approval of the Grand Army post. Mr. Tyler then flatly opposed the amendment, saying the purpose of the law was that citizens of towns, including the old soldiers, by their selection, might erect such monuments. For this purpose we all meet as citizens, and he was glad at every tax payer, however small his grant of, might contribute something to this object. Mr. Herrick said he was glad to have, and

visory committee appointed to take a share of the responsibility, but that he had consulted with one of his colleagues, and they were agreed in refusing to be tied up in the way the last resolution proposed. He was willing and glad to have advisers, but there was only one man who could put a guardian over him, and that was Judge Tyler.

Mr. Martin defended the Estey resolution